



The

MARKETPLACE

For Recycling Commodities

Kentucky Recycling Assistance Section

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Efforts Underway to Make Plastic Coffee Pods Recyclable

According to *Resource Recycling*, a leading producer of individual coffee cups says it will change how the product is made in order to aid recycling.

Monique Oxender, chief sustainability officer at Keurig, said at the SustPack 2016 conference in Chicago last month the company will introduce a recyclable polypropylene pod (PP) later this year. The move was formally announced by Keurig on April 15.

The company has faced criticism for using non-recyclable, single-serve pods in the past. And *The New York Times* published an article after the announcement criticizing the company's shift toward recyclable pods as "hardly green." The story quoted a representative from the Natural Resources Defense Council, who noted that the overall environmental impact of creating single-serve pods (even if recyclable) surpassed the environmental impact of other brewing methods.

Keurig's Oxender stood up for the product. "When you look at the trends toward single-serve generally, you can either villainize it or you can fix it," She told the newspaper. "We're trying to fix it."

At the SustPack conference, Oxender said the company's decision to use recyclable PP pods follows tests at three materials recovery facilities (MRFs) and at KW Plastics in Alabama.

Used PP pods were integrated into a single-stream mix, then sorted for recovery, with the resulting PP material sent to KW to determine recyclability. The research showed that cups can be recovered at a MRF.

In terms of potential contamination, the filter paper remaining on some cups was not a problem, according to Oxender. She also said recyclability was not affected by the coffee grounds that were in some cups, although the inclusion of grounds creates an economic disincentive for recycling.

Recyclability research at a plastics reclaimer in Canada showed similar results, said Sherry Arcaro of

the Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance. In comments to *Resource Recycling*, Arcaro noted Merlin Plastics in British Columbia found no significant problems in processing cup scrap.

Expect More Aluminum Bottles in the Recycling Stream

Industry experts contend recycling carts will contain more and more aluminum bottles in the coming year, according to *Resource Recycling*.

Ricardo Ruiz is a vice president at Belvac Production Machinery, which produces can-making equipment. He says that aluminum packaging is now taking many new shapes, with the aluminum bottle leading the way. "Aluminum bottles have changed the market quickly," Ruiz said.

For example, Anheuser-Busch just started up a \$160 million aluminum bottle line at its can-making operation in Arnold, Mo. This doubles the plant's capacity to make 16-ounce aluminum bottles, bringing it up to 1 billion bottles per year. Another of the firm's seven can-making facilities, in Jacksonville, Fla., will be expanded by early next year to make more aluminum bottles, at the cost of \$170 million.

In a similar manner, Coca-Cola has announced it is tripling its use of aluminum bottles. Ruiz predicts the U.S. aluminum bottle market will reach 4 billion containers in 2019.

A key reason for the bottle market's growth is its gas barrier property, which puts the container on par with glass bottles in terms of keeping the beverage fresh and without a loss of carbonation. In comparison to glass, aluminum bottles are not as heavy, thus resulting in sizable cost savings in shipping beverages.

A new trend in aluminum bottles is the move by can-makers away from impact extrusion manufacturing to using draw-and-iron (D&I) processes. Thus, the aluminum bottle requires far less metal. For example, a 16-ounce impact extrusion bottle weighs about 50 grams, but a D&I container is just 31 grams. This new manufacturing method is seen as a strong reason the aluminum bottle should see strong growth.

COMMODITY	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	May-15
<u>PAPER-\$/TON</u>	RISI Official Board Markets (Midwest/Chicago area) FOB							
-	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	May-15
#2 mixed paper	\$40-45	\$40-45	\$40-45	\$45-50	\$40-45	\$45-50	\$50-55	\$30-35
#37 sorted office paper (SOP)	\$115-125	\$105-115	\$105-115	\$105-115	\$110-120	\$110-120	\$110-120	\$130-140
#8 ONP	\$45-50	\$45-50	\$45-50	\$50-55	\$50-55	\$50-55	\$60-65	\$40-45
#40 sorted white ledger (SWL)	\$200-210	\$190-200	\$190-200	\$190-200	\$190-200	\$185-195	\$180-190	\$230-240
#11 OCC	\$70-75	\$65-70	\$60-65	\$60-65	\$60-65	\$65-70	\$75-80	\$60-65
<u>PLASTICS-¢/LB.</u>	Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - FOB							
-	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	May-15
#1 PET - mixed (clear & green)	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0.08	\$0.09	\$0.10	\$0.12
#2 HDPE (natural-milk jugs)	\$0.27	\$0.29	\$0.28	\$0.27	\$0.26	\$0.30	\$0.38	\$0.31
#2 HDPE (colored-detergent btls.)	\$0.22	\$0.25	\$0.21	\$0.17	\$0.17	\$0.20	\$0.25	\$0.28
<u>GLASS-\$/TON</u>	Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - Delivered							
-	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	May-15
clear (flint)	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$32.00
brown (amber)	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$27.00	\$28.00	\$22.00
green	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$14.00	\$11.00
<u>METALS</u>	Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - Baled/Densified							
-	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	May-15
aluminum beverage cans (UBC) cents/lb.	\$0.54	\$0.55	\$0.54	\$0.59	\$0.60	\$0.60	\$0.61	\$0.66
	Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - Baled							
	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	May-15
steel cans \$/TON	\$20-40	\$24-32	\$22-32	\$45-78	\$70-90	\$80-100	\$130-165	\$110-120



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